

EHSAA 2026 Competition Handbook



Rules, guides, dates
& information for the 2026 competitions.



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1. General information



Welcome to the 2026 EHSAA competition handbook.

Our competitions are held throughout the year. They bring our angling members together to put their skills and experience to the test. They are fun and add some competitiveness and excitement to our club. They are also all designed to target a specific species that is best fished for at that time of year. These competitions are always fished as fair for all entrants as possible. You have just as much chance to take the first place whether you are in a club boat, clinker, Cat or anything in between.

There are categories for juniors, although there is nothing stopping you take first place if you have got the skills! Your target species of choice for any entry might all be different depending on the competition, but as the fishing has proved over the years anyone can win.

We will be running a drawn pairs competition throughout the year. We will draw names of pairs out of a hat after the second competition of the year. The pair with the most points from the competitions throughout the year will be named the Pairs Champions.

We will also have a Top Boat Competition. The boat with the most points from all competitions will take the prize for Top Boat.

The competitions this year have had some minor changes. Please thoroughly read through the booklet to give you full details of each competition and what you are fishing for. If you have any suggestions or ideas for the future please let me know.

If you have any questions please check the inside back cover for a list of useful contacts and we will all do what we can to help.

Good Luck.

Steve Shoesmith

2. 2026 Species Competition weights & Sizes



Species	Latin name	Min Boat Size	lbs - Boat 100% Weights	oz- Boat 100% Weights
Anglerfish	Lophius piscatorius	7lb	10	0
Bass	Dicentrarchus labrax	42cm	7	0
Bream - Black	Spondyliosoma cantharus	24cm	2	0
Bream - Gilthead	Sparus aurata	24cm	1	0
Bream - Red	Pagellus bogaraveo	n/a	1	0
Brill	Scophthalmus rhombus	35cm	4	0
Coalfish	Pollachius virens	35cm	4	0
Cod	Gadus morhua	35cm	6	0
Conger eel	Conger conger	30lb	35	0
Dab	Limanda limanda	23cm	0	12
Flounder	Platichthys flesus	27cm	2	0
Garfish	Belone belone	38cm	1	2
Gurnard - Grey	Eutrigla gurnardus	28cm	1	8
Gurnard - Red	Chelidonichthys cuculus	28cm	1	8
Gurnard - Tub	Chelidonichthys lucerna	28cm	3	0
Haddock	Melanogrammus aeglefinus	35cm	3	0
Herring	Clupea harengus	20cm	1	0
Horse mackerel	Trachurus trachurus	25cm	1	2
John Dory	Zeus faber	33cm	2	8
Lesser Spotted Dogfish	Scyliorhinus canicula	46cm	3	0
Ling	Molva molva	72cm	12	0
Megrim	Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis	25cm	1	4
Mullet - Grey, thick-lipped	Chelon labrosus	33cm	3	0
Mullet - Grey, thin-lipped	Liza ramada	33cm	3	0
Mullet - Golden Grey	Liza aurata	33cm	3	0
Mullet - Red	Mullus surmuletus	15cm	1	0
Plaice	Pleuronectes platessa	28cm	2	8
Pollack	Pollachius pollachius	30cm	12	0
Ray - Blonde	Raja brachyuran	45cm	15	0
Ray - Small-eyed	Raja microocellata	45cm	7	0
Ray - Spotted	Raja montagui	45cm	5	8
Ray - Stingray	Dasyatis pastinaca	45cm	25	0
Ray - Thornback	Raja clavata	45cm	10	0
Rockling - Five Bearded	Ciliata mustela	18cm	1	0
Rockling - Shore	Gaidropsarus mediterraneus	18cm	1	0
Rockling - Three-bearded	Gaidropsarus vulgaris	18cm	1	0
Shark - Blue	Prionace glauca	23lb	50	0
Shark - Bull Huss	Scyliorhinus stellaris	58cm	10	0
Shark - Mako	Isurus oxyrinchus	23lb	50	0
Shark - Smoothhound	Mustelus asterias	51cm	10	0

2. 2026 Species Competition weights & Sizes



Species	Latin name	Min Boat Size	Ibs - Boat 100% Weights	Oz - Boat 100% Weights
Shark - Thresher	Alopias vulpinus	23lb	50	0
Sole - Dover	Solea solea	25cm	1	8
Spurdog		51cm	10	0
Trigger fish	Balistes capriscus	30cm	2	0
Turbot	Scophthalmus maximus	41cm	12	0
Whiting	Merlangius merlangus	27cm	1	6
Wrasse - Ballan	Labrus bergylta	23cm	3	0
Wrasse - Cuckoo	Labrus mixtus	n/a	1	6
Wrasse - Corkwing	Symphodus melops	n/a	0	8
Greater Weaver	Trachinus draco	n/a	1	6

percentage points for EHSAA competition weights. i.e. Cod @ 6lb = 100% / 3lb = 50% etc.

No mini species

3. Spring Comp - 2026 Details and Categories



Competition date is Sunday the 26th April

In the case of not going afloat the competition will roll over until the next available Saturday or Sunday

The Categories are as follows:

The Prizes will be drawn in this order and points accrued accordingly.

1. Best Specimen Fish
2. Best Specimen Dog
3. Heaviest Flat
4. Best Specimen Round
5. Best Specimen Flat
6. 2nd Best Specimen Round
7. 2nd Best Specimen Flat
8. 3rd Best Specimen Round
9. 3rd Best Specimen Flat
10. Best Specimen Ladies
11. Heaviest Round (Juniors)
12. Heaviest Flat (Juniors)



Only one main prize per angler can be claimed plus the pool. The pool will be for the best specimen weighed in each day of the competition, whether it was a target species for the competition or not.

All current competition fish and their weights will count to for this competition. Details for these are on the official fish weights list for 2025 and can be found at the beginning of this guide or available on the website, Facebook page or at the booking desk on the day of the competition. Other fish may be weighed in after the scales have closed and be logged as a club specimen, subject to normal club rules but not counted towards this competition.

START TIMES: STARTS 08:00HRS FINISH – FAST BOATS 16:00HRS, SLOW BOATS 16:30HRS

All fish must be in a pre-tagged, hard bucket or container (no bags) per entry. They must be correctly tagged before being handed over and only contain the fish being entered for the competition. Scales for the competition will close 30 mins after the last boat is in back on the beach or the last bucket is weighed and results verified. All live fish for return will take priority. Please refer to the club competition rules and angling bylaws for more details.

4. Saturday Comp - 2026 Details and Categories



Competition date is Saturday the 23rd May

In the case of not going afloat the competition will roll over until the next available Saturday or Sunday

The Categories are as follows:

The Prizes will be drawn in this order and points accrued accordingly.

1. Best Specimen Fish
2. Best Specimen Round
3. Best Specimen Flat
4. Heaviest Round
5. Heaviest Flat
6. 2nd Specimen Round
7. 2nd Specimen Flat
8. Best Specimen (Junior)
9. 2nd Best Specimen (Junior)



Only one main prize per angler can be claimed plus the pool. The pool will be for the best specimen weighed in each day of the competition, whether it was a target species for the competition or not.

All current competition fish and their weights will count to for this competition. Details for these are on the official fish weights list for 2025 and can be found at the beginning of this guide or available on the website, Facebook page or at the booking desk on the day of the competition. Other fish may be weighed in after the scales have closed and be logged as a club specimen, subject to normal club rules but not counted towards this competition.

START TIMES: STARTS 08:00HRS FINISH – FAST BOATS 16:00HRS, SLOW BOATS 16:30HRS

All fish must be in a pre-tagged, hard bucket or container (no bags) per entry. They must be correctly tagged before being handed over and only contain the fish being entered for the competition. Scales for the competition will close 30 mins after the last boat is in back on the beach or the last bucket is weighed and results verified. All live fish for return will take priority. Please refer to the club competition rules and angling bylaws for more details.

5. Midsummer Comp - 2026 Details and Categories



Competition date is Sunday the 12th July

In the case of not going afloat the competition will roll over until the next available Saturday or Sunday

The Categories are as follows:

The Prizes will be drawn in this order and points accrued accordingly.

1. Heaviest Bag x5 Flat Fish
2. Best Specimen Flat Fish
3. 2nd Heaviest Bag x5 Flat Fish
4. 2nd Best Specimen Flat Fish
5. Heaviest Conger
6. Best Specimen Round (excluding conger)
7. 2nd Heaviest Conger
8. 2nd Best Specimen Round (excluding conger)
9. Best Specimen Round (Junior)
10. Best Specimen Flat (Junior)



Only one main prize per angler can be claimed plus the pool. The pool will be for the best specimen weighed in each day of the competition, whether it was a target species for the competition or not.

All current competition fish and their weights will count to for this competition. Details for these are on the official fish weights list for 2025 and can be found at the beginning of this guide or available on the website, Facebook page or at the booking desk on the day of the competition. Other fish may be weighed in after the scales have closed and be logged as a club specimen, subject to normal club rules but not counted towards this competition.

START TIMES: STARTS 08:00HRS FINISH – FAST BOATS 16:00HRS, SLOW BOATS 16:30HRS

All fish must be in a pre-tagged, hard bucket or container (no bags) per entry. They must be correctly tagged before being handed over and only contain the fish being entered for the competition. Scales for the competition will close 30 mins after the last boat is in back on the beach or the last bucket is weighed and results verified. All live fish for return will take priority. Please refer to the club competition rules and angling bylaws for more details.

6. Two Day Comp - 2026 Details and Categories



Competition dates are Saturday & Sunday the 1st & 2nd August

In the case of not going afloat the competition will roll over until the next available Weekend

The Categories are as follows:

The Trophy winners will be drawn first and then the prizes for each day.

Trophy Winners

- Best Specimen (Over the two days)
- Best Specimen Flat (Over the two days)
- Best Specimen Round (Over the two days)
- Heaviest Flat (Over the two days)
- Heaviest Round (Over the two days)
- Best Specimen (Junior, over the two days)
- Heaviest Fish (Junior, over the two days)



Prize Winners

- Overall Best Specimen (Over the two days)
- Best Specimen Round (Day 1)
- Best Specimen Flat (Day 1)
- Heaviest Round (Day 1)
- Heaviest Flat (Day 1)
- Best Specimen Round (Day 2)
- Best Specimen Flat (Day 2)
- Heaviest Round (Day 2)
- Heaviest Flat (Day 2)

Only one main prize per angler can be claimed plus the pool each day, so you could win 2 prizes over the two days. Overall points and trophies will be won in addition to prizes. The pool will be for the best specimen weighed in each day of the competition, whether it was a target species for the competition or not.

All current competition fish and their weights will count to for this competition. Details for these are on the official fish weights list for 2025 and can be found at the beginning of this guide or available on the website, Facebook page or at the booking desk on the day of the competition. Other fish may be weighed in after the scales have closed and be logged as a club specimen, subject to normal club rules but not counted towards this competition.

START TIMES: STARTS:08:00HRS FINISH – FAST BOATS 16:00HRS, SLOW BOATS 16:30HRS

All fish must be in a pre-tagged, hard bucket or container (no bags) per entry. They must be correctly tagged before being handed over and only contain the fish being entered for the competition. Scales for the competition will close 30 mins after the last boat is in back on the beach or the last bucket is weighed and results verified. All live fish for return will take priority. Please refer to the club competition rules and angling bylaws for more details.

7. Winter Comp - 2026 Details and Categories



Competition date is Sunday the 4th October

In the case of not going afloat the competition will roll over until the next available Saturday or Sunday

The Categories are as follows:

The Prizes will be drawn in this order and points accrued accordingly.

1. 1st Heaviest Cod
2. 1st Heaviest Dab
3. 1st Heaviest Whiting
4. Best Specimen (Junior)
5. Heaviest Cod (Junior)
6. Heaviest Dab (Junior)
7. Heaviest Whiting (Junior)
8. 2nd Heaviest Cod
9. 2nd Heaviest Dab
10. 2nd Heaviest Whiting
11. 3rd Heaviest Cod
12. 3rd Heaviest Dab
13. 3rd Heaviest Whiting

You will bring to the scales a maximum of 4 fish:
(A total of four fish)

1. One Cod.
2. One Dab.
3. One Whiting.
4. Best specimen fish of any species on the 2025 Club Specimen Fish List (pool only).

Only one main prize per angler can be claimed plus the pool.

Only Cod, Dab & Whiting will count for this competition. Details for these are on the official fish weights list for 2025 and can be found at the beginning of this guide or available on the website, Facebook page or at the booking desk on the day of the competition. Other fish may be weighed in after the scales have closed and be logged as a club specimen, subject to normal club rules but not counted towards this competition.

START TIMES: STARTS 08:00HRS FINISH – FAST BOATS 15:00HRS, SLOW BOATS 15:30HRS

All fish must be in a pre-tagged, hard bucket or container (no bags) per entry. They must be correctly tagged before being handed over and only contain the fish being entered for the competition. Scales for the competition will close 30 mins after the last boat is in back on the beach or the last bucket is weighed and results verified. All live fish for return will take priority. Please refer to the club competition rules and angling bylaws for more details.



8. Competition Rules



1. Entry fees will be decided annually by the committee.
2. Fishing times are 08.00 to 16:00 HRS for fast boats. Boats under 10 knots may return by no later than 16:30HRS. These times may be adjusted for the winter comp. The Scales will close 30 minutes after the last boat is back on the beach.
3. Before going afloat, all competitors must individually book in at the clubhouse. All boats with crew names must be signed out in the book in the weighing in room. Failure to do so may result in disqualification.
4. Competition weights and sizes, which are reviewed annually shall apply. These will be posted in the weighing in room and supplied on the day. No fish to be removed until after all fish are weighed unless the fish is alive and needs returning to the sea. Every competitor is responsible for the collection of their own fish from the weighing in room or they may be disqualified.
5. Anglers are not allowed to enter the weighing in shed during the weigh-in.
6. All anglers to bring their own fish to the weigh-in station on landing and the angler must make their own decision on what fish to weigh in before presenting them to the weighing station. Priority will be given to live fish to be returned.
7. All fish must be tagged before presenting to the weigh-in shed in a hard bucket or container, plastic bags will not be accepted. They must only contain the fish being presented for the competition for the angler on the tag.
8. No undersize fish are allowed. All shads, mackerel, tope & silver eel are banned and will disqualify. The list of banned fish may be changed or added to at any time and will be notified on the competition specific sheets on sign in of each competition.
9. In case of breakdown, a boat may tow you home. Any delay in getting home may not disqualify. Once taken in tow, towing must continue until reaching EHSAA.
10. Once launched boats must wait in the EHSAA harbour area for the horn to signal the start the comp. In the interest of safety, competitors in fast boats are requested to show due care and consideration to smaller and slower boats when leaving the harbour area. The Commodore has been empowered to act against competitors/ boat owners disregarding this request.
11. All persons on the boat must be in the competition.



8. Competition Rules

12. The competition will be called on or off at 1pm by the comp secretary on the day before the comp is held. Notification will be sent by text message. If the weather unexpectedly deteriorates overnight, then the boatman/Commodore reserves the right to either restrict the fishing area or distance or cancel on the morning of the comp. In the event of bad weather and for safety reasons the Commodore / Boatman has the right to call boats back to shore. If a competition is cancelled it will be fished on the next available Saturday or Sunday.

13. Boats fishing the competition will get priority launch and retrieval on comp days.

14. Our competitions are open to all our Angling members. Junior Anglers can fish and weigh-in in their own category and will be allowed to, should their fish qualify, take the cup or prize regardless of how many junior entrants. Juniors catches will also count towards the main category.

15. The comp Secretary, assistant comp sec or person officially appointed by the comp sec will weigh in the fish. All prizes, cups & trophies are awarded as per the competition specific category sheet available for each competition. Calculations are worked out by percentage. Specimen fish caught on the day will be transferred to the specimen book by the comp Secretary (fish recorder?) for eligibility for the annual cups and trophies. A pool prize will be awarded for the best specimen fish at the end of each competition. The pool is not available for junior anglers.

16. All other EHSAA rules and bylaws where applicable also apply to competitions.

9. Angling Bylaws



1. When angling, a member may use one or two rods with reels with running lines, but no more than three hooks between the two rods. A treble hook shall count as one hook.
2. The restriction to three hooks shall not apply when fishing for bait provided that specimen fish taken in this way shall be ineligible for annual cups and prizes or club competitions.
3. Reserve rods are allowed each member.
4. Another member may bait the hooks, gaff or net or unhook fish but otherwise shall not handle the rod, tackle, or the fish.
5. All undersize fish shall be returned to the sea and all fish retained by the angler must be quickly killed in a humane manner unless kept alive in an aerated live bait tank or similar.
6. All specimen fish caught from a boat or Kayak must be weighed by a member of the Club or a Boatman on the club scales. The member catching the fish shall sign the counterfoil in the Specimen Book; otherwise the fish will be ineligible for any award. Family members fishing from the same boat as the captor (e.g. father and son, husband, and wife) may not weight in each other's fish.
7. Specimen fish caught from the beach or Pier shall be weighed by an independent witness, i.e. someone not related to or fishing with the captor.
8. Only one specimen per species can be weighed in on any one day.
9. The Committee shall review the Premier and Specimen weights annually. Any alterations to these weights shall not apply until the 1st January of the following year.
10. Boundaries for weighing in beach specimens shall extend from the west bank of the River Rother estuary to the Cooden Resort Hotel.
11. No member is eligible to weigh in specimen fish until all money owed by them to the Association is paid.
12. The committee shall decide the winners of all annual cups and prizes and in doing so shall select the heaviest fish first.

9. Angling Bylaws



13. Trophies involving Premier and Specimen fish shall be judged as best fish related as a percentage of the premier Specimen fish weights. In the event of a tie where points count, the greatest total percentage weight in comparison with Premier Specimen weights shall decide.

14. Any member, whether out for specimen fish or not, who fishes with more than two rods or three hooks attached to running line (except when fishing for bait), hand lines, long lines or sand lines, or who does not at all times comply with the definition of fair angling laid down in Rule 1, shall forfeit the right to weigh in specimen fish and enter any of the Association's competitions for the remainder of the current financial year. Any specimen fish recorded in his or her name during that year shall be deleted from the Specimen List.

15. All annual trophy winners are responsible for their safe keeping and return by the 14th January in good order and cleaned. Competition trophies must be returned at least four weeks prior to the next year's event. Any member not returning trophies by the due date or in an unacceptable condition may result in that member not being allowed to remove trophies from club premises in future.

16. The gutting of fish on the Club Stade is only allowed in the weigh-in area on the table provided. The guts, frames, heads etc. must be removed from the Club Stade and placed below the high-water mark by the captor(s). It is not part of the Boatmen's duties to dispose of unwanted fish or guts.

17. The use of pots to catch whelks, crabs, lobsters, or prawns can only be carried out by boats who hold a permit issued by the Sussex IFCA.



10. Contacts and Useful Information

Contacts

Boat yard mobile: 07572191408

Steve Shoemith: office@ehsaa.co.uk
(Comp Sec)

Angling Trust: <https://anglingtrust.net/>

EHSAA Office: 01424 426644

EHSAA Website: <https://www.ehsaa.co.uk/>

EHSAA Facebook group: East Hastings Sea Angling Association

Useful information

The decision to go afloat will be made at 1pm the day before the competition based on the available weather and sea conditions at that time. Updates to this will be sent out by text on the club text phone at this time. Please ensure you are signed up to this for the most up to date information.

All competition start times may be brought forward if all boats that are fishing the competition are afloat ahead of schedule and ready to go. This decision will be at the discretion of the Comp Sec on the day.

If any one has any suggestions for future competitions please speak to Richard Edwards or email him at comps@ehsaa.co.uk. All ideas and feedback is greatly appreciated.

Entry Fees for 2025

£10 per adult angler to enter on the day, £1 of which is put towards the pool.
£5 per junior angler to enter on the day.

Pool Details

The pool entry fee is added to a pot at each competition, and the best specimen fish each day of the competition takes the pool money at the end. The fish for the best specimen is based on the normal club specimen weights which is different from the competition weights. Juniors are not eligible to enter the pool.

Tip of the day!

Its always worth weighing in your catch, you never know what will win until all the fish have been on the scales.



**EHSAA
Competitions 2026**